

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04438 081439Z
ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FOR USDEL SECRETARY

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF
SUBJECT: VANCE MIDDLE EAST TOUR: KUWAITI PRESS REACTION AUG.
7-8

1. SINCE THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT, THE
PALESTINIAN INFLUENCED KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS HAVE PLAYED UP,
BOTH IN HEADLINES AND IN EDITORIALS, REPORTED DIVER-
GENCIES BETWEEN ALLEGED US AND ARAB POSITIONS. THEY HAVE
ALSO GENERALLY SOUGHT TO PORTRAY CONFRONTATION STATES AS
STAUNCH AND UNBENDING IN THE FACE OF WHAT ARE DESCRIBED
AS ENTREATIES OR PROPOSALS BY VANCE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER,
SEVERAL EDITORIAL UNDERCURRENTS WHICH DO NOT ACCORD WITH
THIS GENERAL PICTURE, INCLUDING EXPRESSIONS OF FEAR THAT THE
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04438 081439Z

ARABS ARE NOT PROPERLY UNITED AND THAT VANCE WILL BE UNABLE
TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD GENEVA (THE LAST ALWAYS PORTRAYED
AS A DANGER STEMMING FROM ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.)
(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.)

2. SELECTED EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM KUWAITI DAILIES
OF AUGUST 7 AND 8 FOLLOWS:

A. AL-ANBA, IN ITS AUG. 7 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE BALL AGAIN IN ISRAEL'S COURT," STATED THAT WHEN SADAT PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE FOR THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, HE WAS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THE FORMATION OF SUCH A GROUP, SYRIA'S AND JORDAN'S CONDITIONS FOR JOINING THAT GROUP BEING WELL-KNOWN TO HIM (THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE). THE WRITER ASSERTED THAT VANCE WILL FIND MUCH DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING ISRAEL TO ACCEPT THE PLO IN THE CONFERENCE; ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE, THEREFORE, FOR WASTING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE.

B. AL-WABAS OF AUGUST 7 RECOMMENDED THAT PRES. SADAT'S PROPOSAL FOR FORMING A MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP BE AMENDED TO AN "ARAB WORK GROUP," TO MEET IN AN ARAB CAPITAL AND SETTLE THE "PRE-GENEVA" PROBLEMS SO THAT THE ARABS CAN GO TO GENEVA WITH ONE STAND ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.

C. AL-QABAS, IN ITS AUGUST 8 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WILL WE HEAR A COURAGEOUS WORD?", INQUIRED IF VANCE WILL BE "COURAGEOUS" ENOUGH TO ASK ISRAEL FOR ITS SPECIFIC REPLIES TO THE ARAB PROPOSALS. THE WRITER OBSERVED THAT EVERYBODY IS WAITING TO SEE IF VANCE OR HIS SUPERIOR LISTEN TO THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE PALESTINIANS WHOSE FATE IS NOW BEING SETTLED.

D. AR-RAI AL-'AM EDITORIALIST (AUG.8) ASSERTED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04438 081439Z

VANCE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE HIS ARAB "CLIENTS" GIVE UP CERTAIN OF THEIR CONDITIONS FOR PEACE, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATED TO THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE WRITER ALLEGED THAT, AS AN EXPRESSION OF ANGER AT THIS FAILURE, BEGIN VISITED THE CONFRONTATION LINES IN THE GOLAN AND SOUTH LEBANON TO SHOW THAT ISRAEL MIGHT RESORT TO MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE FACE OF ARAB RESOLUTENESS.

E. KUWAIT TIMES EDITORIAL OF AUG. 8 ASSERTS THAT "THE VANCE MISSION APPEARS DOOMED" WHAT WITH "SYRIA'S REJECTION OF THE WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL, JORDAN'S DEMAND FOR MODIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN PEACE PROPOSALS," AND THE ISRAELI ATTITUDE, WHICH HAS CHANGED FROM "INTRANS-IGENCE ON PEACE TO OUTRIGHT ANNEXATION OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY." THIS EDITORIAL OPINES THAT VANCE'S ANNOUNCED FORTHCOMING RETURNS TO ARAB CAPITALS (AFTER VISITING TEL AVIV) AMOUNT TO "SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" WHICH "MAY NOT SUCCEED AT ALL," DEPENDING UPON "TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH NOW HOLDS MOST OF THE TRUMP CARDS ON THE ARAB SIDE..." (END UNCLASSIFIED).
MAESTRONE

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